

Lifespan Respite Care Program

Project Summary

Grantee Organization: Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services

State: Texas

Project Period: August 2012 through February 2014

Contact: Joyce Pohlman (joyce.pohlman@dads.state.tx.us)

Project Overview:

The Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services, in collaboration with the Texas Respite Coordination Center, the Texas Respite Coalition and other key stakeholders, will work to further integrate and sustain the Lifespan Respite Program in Texas. The **goal** of the project is to build upon the existing lifespan respite infrastructure to coordinate a more robust system of services and supports for caregivers.

Project **objectives** include 1) continuous quality improvement of the Texas Inventory of Respite Services to ensure a comprehensive scope; 2) respite services system navigation assistance for caregivers identified through DADS caregiver status questionnaire and assessment processes; 3) streamlined access to a wide range of caregiver education resources; 4) increased availability of evidence-based caregiver training; and 5) enhanced mentoring to promote sustainable respite service delivery models.

Outcomes and Products:

Anticipated **outcomes** include 1) improved linkages with critical healthcare pathway providers to caregiver and respite services and supports; 2) increased listings on the Inventory; 3) enhanced database reporting capabilities; 4) better integration of existing systems and funding sources; and 5) a sustainability plan for the Take Time Texas (TTT) website, inventory services and referral protocols.

The project **products** will include targeted outreach materials for critical pathway healthcare partners, peer-led training events for volunteer providers, and evidence-based caregiver training pilots, additional resources on the TTT website; evaluation activities to assess program effectiveness; and a sustainability plan.